

# Section

## Review of Midterm / Sensitivity Analysis

Kentaro Nakamura

GOV 2002

October 31st, 2025

# Logistics

- Midterm grade is released
  - Really hard midterm
  - Great job everyone
- We return bluebook
  - Let us know if you have any regrading request
- Today's agenda
  - Review of Midterm Questions
  - Module 7: Sensitivity Analysis

# Two Stage Randomized Experiment: Setup

- **First Stage Randomization:** randomizing treated cluster and control cluster
  - $W_j$ : cluster treatment status for cluster  $j$
- **Second Stage Randomization:** randomize treatment for individual within treated cluster
  - $Z_{ij} = 1$ : if individual  $i$  is in the treated group
  - $Z_{ij} = 0$ : if individual  $i$  is in the control group
- **Partial Interference Assumption:** No interference between clusters
- **Stratified Interference Assumption:** Individual outcome is affected by (1) their own treatment status and (2) the proportion of the treated units within the same cluster
  - This implies that  $Y_{ij} = Y_{ij}(Z_{ij}, W_j)$

# Two Stage Randomized Experiment: Estimand

- **Total Effect:** Effect of Treatment + Spillover

$$\tau = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^J \sum_{i=1}^n [Y_{ij}(1, 1) - Y_{ij}(0, 0)]$$

- **Direct Effect:** Effect of Treatment

$$\delta = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^J \sum_{i=1}^n [Y_{ij}(1, 1) - Y_{ij}(0, 1)]$$

- **Indirect Effect:** Spillover Effect

$$\xi = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^J \sum_{i=1}^n [Y_{ij}(0, 1) - Y_{ij}(0, 0)]$$

## Two Stage Randomized Experiment: Question 1(c)

- The within-sample variance is given by

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{V}(\hat{\xi} \mid \mathcal{O}_n) &= \frac{\sigma_b^2(0, 1)}{J_1} + \frac{\sigma_b^2(0, 0)}{J_0} - \frac{\sigma_\xi^2}{J} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{m_{01}JJ_1} \left(1 - \frac{m_{01}}{m}\right) \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{\sigma_j^2(0, 1)}{J_1}\end{aligned}$$

where

$$\sigma_j^2(z, w) := \frac{1}{m-1} \sum_{i=1}^m (Y_{ij}(z, w) - \bar{Y}_j(z, w))^2$$

$$\sigma_b^2(z, w) := \frac{1}{J-1} \sum_{j=1}^J (\bar{Y}_j(z, w) - \bar{Y}(z, w))^2$$

$$\sigma_\xi^2 := \frac{1}{J-1} \sum_{j=1}^J \{(\bar{Y}_j(0, 1) - \bar{Y}_j(0, 0)) - (\bar{Y}(0, 1) - \bar{Y}(0, 0))\}^2.$$

## Two Stage Randomized Experiment: Question 1(c)

- Look at the last term

$$\sigma_{\xi}^2 := \frac{1}{J-1} \sum_{j=1}^J \{(\bar{Y}_j(0,1) - \bar{Y}_j(0,0)) - (\bar{Y}(0,1) - \bar{Y}(0,0))\}^2$$

- This is the sample variance of spillover effect at the cluster level  
 $\bar{Y}_j(0,1) - \bar{Y}_j(0,0)$
- Now, notice that

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{\xi}^2 &= \text{var}(\bar{Y}_j(0,1) - \bar{Y}_j(0,0)) \\ &= \text{var}(\bar{Y}_j(0,1)) + \text{var}(\bar{Y}_j(0,0)) - 2 \underbrace{\text{cov}(\bar{Y}_j(0,1), \bar{Y}_j(0,0))}_{\text{Not Identified!}}\end{aligned}$$

## Two Stage Randomized Experiment: Question 1(d)

- Recall that we have law of total variance

$$\mathbb{V}[\hat{\xi}] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{V}(\hat{\xi} \mid \mathcal{O}_n)] + \mathbb{V}[\mathbb{E}(\hat{\xi} \mid \mathcal{O}_n)]$$

- We proved that  $\mathbb{E}(\hat{\xi} \mid \mathcal{O}_n)$  is unbiased; thus

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{V}[\mathbb{E}(\hat{\xi} \mid \mathcal{O}_n)] \\ &= \mathbb{V}\left[\frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=1}^J \underbrace{\left(\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m Y_{ij}(0, 1) - \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m Y_{ij}(0, 0)\right)}_{\text{Indirect Effect in Cluster } j}\right] \\ &= \frac{\mathbb{V}[\overline{Y_j(0, 1)} - \overline{Y_j(0, 0)}]}{J}. \end{aligned}$$

- Thus, this part is the variance of indirect effect

## Two Stage Randomized Experiment: Question 1(d)

- On the other hand, we already know the form of  $\mathbb{V}(\hat{\xi} \mid \mathcal{O}_n)$
- **NOTE:** each  $\sigma$  is not random in finite-population framework, but it is random in super-population framework!
- Therefore,  $\sigma$  should not remain in the last formula
  - You need to take the expectation
  - Fortunately, each  $\sigma$  is unbiased  $\rightarrow$  We can replace it with population variance



# Two Stage Randomized Experiment with Encouragement: Assumption

- **First Stage Randomization:** randomizing treated cluster and control cluster
  - $W_j$ : cluster treatment status for cluster  $j$
- **Second Stage Randomization:** randomize *encouragement* for individual within treated cluster
  - $Z_{ij} = 1$ : if individual  $i$  receives encouragement
  - $Z_{ij} = 0$ : if individual  $i$  does not receive encouragement
- **Assumptions**
  - **Partial Interference Assumption:** No interference between clusters
  - **Monotonicity:**  $T_{ij}(z_{ij} = 1, \mathbf{z}_{-i,j}) \geq T_{ij}(z_{ij} = 0, \mathbf{z}_{-i,j})$
  - **Exclusion Restriction:**  $Y_{ij}(\mathbf{z}_j, \mathbf{t}_j) = Y_{ij}(\mathbf{z}'_j, \mathbf{t}_j) = Y_{ij}(\mathbf{t}_j)$
- We relaxed the stratified interference assumption
  - Thus,  $Y_{ij} = Y_{ij}(Z_{ij}, \mathbf{Z}_{-ij})$

# Two Stage Randomized Experiment with Encouragement

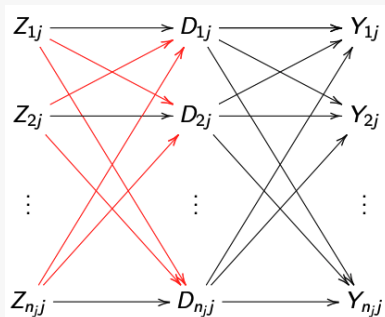
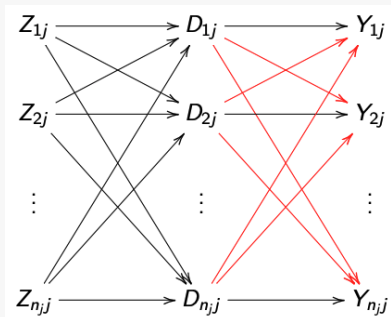
- In question 2(c) and 2(e), we make different assumptions:

- 2(c): No spillover of treatment receipt on the outcome

$$Y_{ij}(t_{ij}, \mathbf{t}_{-i,j}) = Y_{ij}(t_{ij}, \mathbf{t}'_{-i,j}) \quad \text{for all } i, j, t_{ij}, \mathbf{t}_{-i,j}, \mathbf{t}'_{-i,j}.$$

- 2(d): No spillover effect of encouragement on the treatment receipt

$$T_{ij}(z_{ij}, \mathbf{z}_{-i,j}) = T_{ij}(z_{ij}, \mathbf{z}'_{-i,j}) \quad \text{for all } i, j, z_{ij}, \mathbf{z}_{-i,j}, \mathbf{z}'_{-i,j}$$



# Two Stage Randomized Experiment with Encouragement

- Numerator is

$$\sum_{j=1}^J \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{\mathbf{z}_{-i,j}} \{ \mathbf{Y}_{ij}(1, \mathbf{z}_{-i,j}) - Y_{ij}(0, \mathbf{z}_{-i,j}) \}$$

$$\times \underbrace{\{ T_{ij}(1, \mathbf{z}_{-i,j}) - T_{ij}(0, \mathbf{z}_{-i,j}) \}}_{\text{Only takes 1 for Complier}} \underbrace{\Pr(\mathbf{Z}_{-i,j} = \mathbf{z}_{-i,j} \mid W_j = 1)}_{\text{Marginalize over Other's Encouragement}}$$

- Important:** You need to understand when potential outcome is random / not random in finite sample framework
  - Recall that  $\mathbf{Z}_{ij}$  (encouragement status) is random
  - Treatment is random variable since  $T_{ij} = T_{ij}(\mathbf{Z}_{ij})$  (similarly  $Y_{ij} = Y_{ij}(\mathbf{Z}_{ij})$ )
- Therefore, even after using consistency

$$Z_{ij} Y_{ij} = Z_{ij} Y_{ij}(Z_{ij} = 1, \mathbf{Z}_{-ij})$$

the potential outcome  $Y_{ij}(Z_{ij} = 1, \mathbf{Z}_{-ij})$  is still random!

## Two Stage Randomized Experiment with Encouragement

- Therefore, you cannot do the following!

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{1}{m_1} \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbb{E}[Z_{ij} Y_{ij}] \\ &= \frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{1}{m_1} \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbb{E}[Z_{ij} Y_{ij}(Z_{ij} = 1, \mathbf{Z}_{-ij})] \\ &\neq \frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{1}{m_1} \sum_{i=1}^m Y_{ij}(Z_{ij} = 1, \mathbf{Z}_{-ij}) \mathbb{E}[Z_{ij}] \end{aligned}$$

because  $Y_{ij}(Z_{ij} = 1, \mathbf{Z}_{-ij})$  is random due to  $\mathbf{Z}_{-ij}$

## Two Stage Randomized Experiment with Encouragement

- Instead, you need to justify as follows!

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{1}{m_1} \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbb{E}[Z_{ij} Y_{ij}] \\ &= \frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{1}{m_1} \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbb{E}[Z_{ij} Y_{ij}(Z_{ij} = 1, \mathbf{Z}_{-ij})] \\ &= \frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{1}{m_1} \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbb{E} \left[ \mathbb{E} \left( Z_{ij} Y_{ij}(Z_{ij} = 1, \mathbf{Z}_{-ij}) \mid \mathbf{Z}_{-ij} \right) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{1}{m_1} \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbb{E} \left[ Y_{ij}(Z_{ij} = 1, \mathbf{Z}_{-ij}) \mathbb{E} \left( Z_{ij} \mid \mathbf{Z}_{-ij} \right) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{J} \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^J \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbb{E} \left[ Y_{ij}(Z_{ij} = 1, \mathbf{Z}_{-ij}) \right] \end{aligned}$$

# Sensitivity Analysis

- **Sensitivity Analysis:** Approach to characterize the robustness of your finding
- Two approaches
  - **Approach 1:** Partial  $R^2$  Approach / Omitted Variable Bias Approach
    - Reading: Cinelli and Hazlett (2020, JRSS-B)
  - **Approach 2:** Cornfield Condition (Risk Ratio based approach)
    - Reading: Ding and Vanderweele (2016, Epidemiology)
- Other approaches: Rosenbaum's  $\Gamma$ 
  - Covered in Module 8 (Assuming odds of treatment)

# Omitted Variable Bias Formula (1)

- Suppose that true model is

$$Y_i = \alpha + \beta T_i + \gamma^\top \mathbf{X}_i + \delta U_i + \epsilon_i$$

but you use the model

$$Y_i = \alpha^* + \beta^* T_i + \gamma^{*\top} \mathbf{X}_i + \epsilon_i$$

- Recall that FWL theorem tells us

$$\beta^* = \frac{\text{Cov}(Y_i, \tilde{T}_i^*)}{\mathbb{V}[\tilde{T}_i^*]}$$

where

$$T_i = \phi_0^* + \phi_1^{*\top} \mathbf{X}_i + \tilde{T}_i^*$$

## Omitted Variable Bias Formula (2)

- Then,

$$\begin{aligned}\beta^* &= \frac{\text{Cov}(Y_i, \tilde{T}_i^*)}{\mathbb{V}[\tilde{T}_i^*]} \\ &= \frac{\text{Cov}(\alpha + \beta T_i + \gamma^\top \mathbf{X}_i + \delta U_i + \epsilon_i, \tilde{T}_i^*)}{\mathbb{V}[\tilde{T}_i^*]} \\ &= \frac{\text{Cov}(\beta T_i + \delta U_i, \tilde{T}_i^*)}{\mathbb{V}[\tilde{T}_i^*]} \\ &= \beta + \delta \times \frac{\text{Cov}(U_i, \tilde{T}_i^*)}{\mathbb{V}[\tilde{T}_i^*]}\end{aligned}$$

where the last line is because

$$\text{Cov}(T_i, \tilde{T}_i^*) = \text{Cov}(\phi_0^* + \phi_1^{*\top} \mathbf{X}_i + \tilde{T}_i^*, \tilde{T}_i^*) = \mathbb{V}[\tilde{T}_i^*]$$

- Also, consider  $U_i = \psi_0^* + \psi_1^\top \mathbf{X}_i + \tilde{U}_i$ . Then,

$$\text{Cov}(U_i, \tilde{T}_i^*) = \text{Cov}(\psi_0^* + \psi_1^\top \mathbf{X}_i + \tilde{U}_i, \tilde{T}_i^*) = \text{Cov}(\tilde{U}_i, \tilde{T}_i^*)$$



## Omitted Variable Bias Formula (3)

- Therefore, the bias term is

$$|\beta^* - \beta| = \underbrace{\frac{|\text{Cov}(Y_i^{\perp T, \mathbf{X}}, U_i^{\perp T, \mathbf{X}})|}{\mathbb{V}[U_i^{\perp T, \mathbf{X}}]}}_{=\delta \text{ (By FWL)}} \times \frac{|\text{Cov}(U_i^{\perp \mathbf{X}}, T_i^{\perp \mathbf{X}})|}{\mathbb{V}[T_i^{\perp \mathbf{X}}]}$$

- Now, notice that

$$\frac{|\text{Cov}(Y_i^{\perp T, \mathbf{X}}, U_i^{\perp T, \mathbf{X}})|}{\mathbb{V}[U_i^{\perp T, \mathbf{X}}]} = \underbrace{\frac{|\text{Cov}(Y_i^{\perp T, \mathbf{X}}, U_i^{\perp T, \mathbf{X}})|}{\sqrt{\mathbb{V}[U_i^{\perp T, \mathbf{X}}]}\sqrt{\mathbb{V}[Y_i^{\perp T, \mathbf{X}}]}}}_{\text{Partial } R^2 \text{ of } Y \sim U | T, \mathbf{X}} \times \frac{\sqrt{\mathbb{V}[Y_i^{\perp T, \mathbf{X}}]}}{\sqrt{\mathbb{V}[U_i^{\perp T, \mathbf{X}}]}}$$

and

$$\frac{|\text{Cov}(U_i^{\perp \mathbf{X}}, T_i^{\perp \mathbf{X}})|}{\mathbb{V}[T_i^{\perp \mathbf{X}}]} = \underbrace{\frac{|\text{Cov}(U_i^{\perp \mathbf{X}}, T_i^{\perp \mathbf{X}})|}{\sqrt{\mathbb{V}[T_i^{\perp \mathbf{X}}]}\sqrt{\mathbb{V}[U_i^{\perp \mathbf{X}}]}}}_{\text{Partial } R^2 \text{ of } T \sim U | \mathbf{X}} \times \frac{\sqrt{\mathbb{V}[T_i^{\perp \mathbf{X}}]}}{\sqrt{\mathbb{V}[U_i^{\perp \mathbf{X}}]}}$$

## Partial R-Squared Approach

- As a result,

$$|\beta^* - \beta| = \sqrt{R_{Y \sim U|T,X}^2 \frac{\mathbb{V}[Y_i^{\perp T, \mathbf{X}}]}{\mathbb{V}[U_i^{\perp T, \mathbf{X}}]} \times R_{T \sim U|X}^2 \frac{\mathbb{V}[U_i^{\perp \mathbf{X}}]}{\mathbb{V}[T_i^{\perp \mathbf{X}}]}}$$

- Therefore, with a bit of additional step<sup>1</sup>, we get

$$|\beta^* - \beta| = \sqrt{R_{Y \sim U|T,X}^2 \times \frac{R_{T \sim U|X}^2}{1 - R_{T \sim U|X}^2} \times \underbrace{\frac{\mathbb{V}[Y_i^{\perp T, \mathbf{X}}]}{\mathbb{V}[Y_i^{\perp T}]}}_{\text{Estimatable}}}$$

---

<sup>1</sup>With FWL theorem, we can indeed derive

$$\frac{\mathbb{V}[U_i^{\perp \mathbf{X}}]}{\mathbb{V}[U_i^{\perp T, \mathbf{X}}]} = \frac{1}{\frac{\mathbb{V}[U_i^{\perp T, \mathbf{X}}]}{\mathbb{V}[U_i^{\perp \mathbf{X}}]}} = \frac{1}{1 - R_{T \sim U|X}^2}$$

See Review Question 7 for STAT.

## Appendix: Unconditional $R^2$

- Recall that  $R^2$  for regression  $Y \sim \mathbf{X}$  is given by

$$R_{Y \sim \mathbf{X}}^2 = \frac{\mathbb{V}[\hat{Y}_i]}{\mathbb{V}[Y_i]} = 1 - \frac{\mathbb{V}[\hat{\epsilon}_i]}{\mathbb{V}[Y_i]} = 1 - \frac{\mathbb{V}[Y_i^\perp \mathbf{X}]}{\mathbb{V}[Y_i]}$$

- Now, notice that since residual  $\hat{\epsilon}_i$  is orthogonal to  $\hat{Y}_i$ , we get

$$\text{Cov}(Y_i, \hat{Y}_i) = \text{Cov}(\hat{Y}_i + \hat{\epsilon}_i, \hat{Y}_i) = \text{Cov}(\hat{Y}_i, \hat{Y}_i) = \mathbb{V}[\hat{Y}_i]$$

- As a result, we can show the connection between unconditional  $R^2$  and correlation coefficient:

$$\text{Cor}(Y_i, \hat{Y}_i) = \frac{\text{Cov}(Y_i, \hat{Y}_i)}{\sqrt{\mathbb{V}[Y_i]} \sqrt{\mathbb{V}[\hat{Y}_i]}} = \sqrt{\frac{\mathbb{V}[\hat{Y}_i]}{\mathbb{V}[Y_i]}} = \sqrt{R_{Y \sim \mathbf{X}}^2}$$

# Cornfield Condition (Risk Ratio based approach)

- **Setup:**  $Y_i(t) \perp\!\!\!\perp T_i \mid U_i$  for  $t \in \{0, 1\}$ 
  - However,  $U_i$  is unobserved
- **Estimand:** Now, let's focus on the **causal risk ratio**:

$$RR_{TY}^{\text{true}} = \frac{\mathbb{P}(Y_i(1) = 1)}{\mathbb{P}(Y_i(0) = 1)}$$

- Risk ratio = 1 is equivalent to ATE = 0
- We instead observe the observed risk ratio

$$RR_{TY}^{\text{obs}} = \frac{\mathbb{P}(Y_i = 1 \mid T_i = 1)}{\mathbb{P}(Y_i = 1 \mid T_i = 0)}$$

# Cornfield Condition (Risk Ratio based approach)

- **Generalized Cornfield Condition:** If  $RR_{TY}^{obs} > 1$ , then

$$RR_{TY}^{true} \geq RR_{TY}^{obs} \times \frac{RR_{TU} + RR_{UY} - 1}{RR_{TU} \times RR_{UY}}$$

where

$$RR_{TU} = \frac{\mathbb{P}(U_i = 1 \mid T_i = 1)}{\mathbb{P}(U_i = 1 \mid T_i = 0)}, \quad RR_{UY} = \frac{\mathbb{P}(Y_i = 1 \mid U_i = 1)}{\mathbb{P}(Y_i = 1 \mid U_i = 0)}$$

Further, in order for  $RR_{TY}^{true} = 1$ , we must have

$$\underbrace{\max\{RR_{UY}, RR_{TU}\}}_{\text{Unobserved}} \geq \underbrace{RR_{TY}^{obs} + \sqrt{RR_{TY}^{obs}(RR_{TY}^{obs} - 1)}}_{\text{Observed}}$$

# Cornfield Condition (Risk Ratio based approach)

